

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 3 JANUARY 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

SPECIAL THEME ANNOUNCED FOR WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2021

WRC-23 PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

and

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin with news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Jean-Pierre Coetzee, ZU6PJ, fell silent on Saturday 26 December 2020. He was only 20 years of age and got his ZU call sign at the age of 9. Jean-Pierre was the son of Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP. Our sincere condolences to Hannes, his family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Tony Baard, ZS1APB, went silent on Thursday 24 December 2020. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

SPECIAL THEME ANNOUNCED FOR WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY
2021

The IARU Administrative Council has chosen “Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone” as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day, Sunday 18 April 2021. Faced with a pandemic that forced the adoption of extreme physical isolation to reduce the spread of the virus, the worldwide amateur radio community responded positively to overcome the resulting social isolation.

In the days and weeks following the onset of the pandemic radio amateurs reached out spontaneously to one another via the airwaves at the local, national and global levels. Local “wellness nets” provided friendly voices and regular status checks to those, especially the elderly, who are confined to their homes. “Stay safe” special event stations in dozens of countries reminded us all of the importance of limiting the spread of the virus. On-the-air activity was at an unprecedented level throughout the rest of 2020, with record-breaking numbers of entries in the major contests.

While the development of effective vaccines offers hope for a return to some semblance of normality later in 2021, the pandemic will still be with us when we mark World Amateur Radio Day 2021. This theme offers the opportunity for our Member Societies to tailor meaningful messages to the general public about the values of the global amateur radio community.

THE 2021 SARL DIARY OF EVENTS AND CONTEST MANUAL

Version 1.2 of the 2021 SARL Diary of Events and Contest Manual is available for download from the League website. Links have been inserted from the Table of Contests to the various contests. Please send suggestions and comments to contest@sarl.org.za, Dennis, ZS4BS does not read the forum.

THE 2021 SARL NATIONAL CONVENTION

On pages 17 to 19 of the January 2021 issue of Radio ZS, you will find information about the SARL Awards and Trophies to be handed over at the 2021 SARL Awards Dinner, as well as information about the nomination to serve on Council and how to submit a motion to the AGM. We are also looking for proposals for Papers for the 2021 SARL Symposium on 16 April 2021. The closing date for Award nominations, Council nominations, motions and proposals is midnight on Sunday 31 January 2021 and must be sent to secretary@sarl.org.za.

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WRC-23 PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

One of the most important missions of the IARU is to represent the interests of the amateur and amateur-satellite services in the International Telecommunication Union. Periodic ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRCs) revise the international Radio Regulations that define frequency allocations for the various radio services.

As an incumbent radio service with allocations at intervals throughout the radio spectrum, the amateur service faces challenges at every WRC. Successfully defending our existing access to the spectrum is a significant accomplishment at any WRC, but sometimes it is also possible to improve our existing allocations. WRC-19 resulted in major improvements in 50 MHz allocations in Region 1. Without any doubt, this could not have happened without the concerted efforts of dozens of IARU volunteers over the course of several years.

As noted in the report on the October 2020 Administrative Council meeting, the next WRC is expected to be held in 2023. Under the direction of Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, 20 IARU volunteers are taking part in virtual meetings of ITU Working Parties and preparatory committees of regional telecommunications organizations (RTOs) as they address the WRC-23 agenda items that are of particular concern to us. The potentially affected frequency bands are 50 - 54 MHz (a new service in an adjacent band is proposed), 1 240 - 1 300 MHz, 3 300 - 3 400 MHz, 10.0 - 10.5 GHz and 241 - 250 GHz. Also, studies are being conducted to identify protection requirements for space weather sensors that operate in frequency bands from 13 kHz to at least 15 GHz.

The participation of IARU member-societies in preparations at the national level, to the extent such participation is permitted, is an important contribution to our eventual success at a WRC itself. Also, read Focus on VHF in the January 2021 Radio ZS.

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering is a voluntary act of an individual or group freely giving time and labour for community service. For every ten that watch, only one comes forward to help. The work of the SARL is done by volunteers.

Thank you so much for the immeasurably valuable work you are doing for our hobby and the SARL! We have not thanked you enough and want to let you know that your dedication is essential to the work that we do. We cannot do it without you. Even though you are not in the spotlight, you are the backbone of each and every event of the organisation. Thank you for your passion, your ideas, your positive energy and for striving towards making a difference. We are forever thankful for the time you give for the hobby and the SARL. You are making an unforgettable difference!

CONTEST RESULTS

Fifteen logs were received for the SARL Newbie QSO Party held on 19 December. It was too quick for the candidates from the 5 December RAE!

1st Dienie Schnetler, ZS6DNI – 616 points

2nd Danie Schnetler, ZS6DPS – 504 points

3rd Jack Kotze, ZS6JJK – 410 points

The full results will be published in HF Happenings 932.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There are a pair of small sunspot regions with simple magnetic configurations visible. No solar flaring is expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around fourteen. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially during the afternoons, provide some DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events, dependent on the present health regulations:

Today – The ARRL RTTY Roundup

11 January – The West Rand Club meeting

13 January - Namibian schools open

15 to 17 January – The PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest

16 January – The Magalies ARC meeting

19 January – The PEARS and Border ARC meetings

20 January – The SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

23 January – The Summer QRP Sprint; Propagation Summit 2021 and the CTARC and Highway ARC meetings

23 and 24 January – The BARTG RTTY Sprint

26 January – The Secunda ARC meeting

27 January – The Provincial Schools open

31 January - Closing date for AGM motions and nominations for SARL Awards and Council

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our leading news story:

The IARU Administrative Council has chosen “Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone” as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day, Sunday 18 April 2021.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, a Happy New Year!